

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 301402Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 587

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EAID, EINV, BY, US

SUBJECT: NICKEL DEVELOPMENT IN BURUNDI

REF BUJUMBURA 785

1. WORD ON RESULTS OF NICKEL CONSORTIUM MEETING DECEMBER 11-12 IN PARIS HAS BEEN SLOW TO COME OUT BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY SEASON AND INCREASINGLY CLOSED MOUTH ATTITUDE OF BURUNDI COUNTERPARTS TO UNDP MINERALS TEAM. ACCORDING TO WHAT IS KNOWN BY ONE MINERALS TEAM MEMBER, HOWEVER, BURUNDI GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED WITH RESULTS. CONSORTIUM MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED PREVIOUS REPRESENTATION OF U.S., BELGIANS, GERMANS, AND FRENCH AND A NEW CANADIAN COMPANY (SHERRIT-GORDON), A NEW JAPANESE FIRM, AND UNDP REPS (GREENWOOD-MEYER AND HARRIS), AGREED TO FINANCE DOLS 15 MILLION FEASIBILITY STUDY FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF UNDP PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY. CONSORTIUM
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WILL SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BURUNDI TO BE

PRESENT DURING UNDP STUDY.

2. ONLY SOUR NOTE REPORTED SO FAR FROM THE PARIS MEETING WAS ON PART OF BRGN REPRESENTATIVE ON CONSORTIUM (FRENCH BUREAU OF GEOLOGICAL AND MINING RESEARCH) WHO KEPT QUESTIONING VIABILITY OF PROJECT AND EVEN DOUBTED SIZE AND WORTH OF NICKEL FIND. BURUNDI MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MPOZAGARA, WHO LED BURUNDI DELEGATION, REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED TO HIS FRENCH COUNTERPART ABOUT BRGN'S UNPLEASANT BEHAVIOR AT MEETING.

3. UNDP LIQUIDITY CRUNCH AND TOP PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO CONDUCTING DOLS 1.2 MILLION MINERALS PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY IS HAVING POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS EFFECT ON OVERALL UNDP PROGRAM IN BURUNDI. ACCORDING TO UNDP PERMREP HERE, WITH CURRENT BUDGET NOW PROPOSED BY UNDP HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, ALL ON-GOING AS WELL AS PLANNED UNDP PROGRAMS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO-THREE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, WILL HAVE TO BE SCRAPPED IN ORDER TO DO THE MINERALS STUDY.

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